



The Straight Scoop

Department Newsletter of the
Marine Corps League
Department of West Virginia
P.O. Box 11828
Charleston, WV 25339



Volume 3, Issue 7, July 2010

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Department Financial Report

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia Hershel "Woody" Williams Scholarship Foundation:
22 May 2010 beginning balance: \$11,749.28; Deposits: \$755.00; Interest: \$2.99;
Debits: \$1,000.00

22 June 2010 ending balance: \$11,507.27

Please send all donations to John Nanny, P.O. Box 2121, Wheeling, WV 26003-0234.

Marine Corps League, Department of West Virginia General Account and Paymaster Report:

20 May 2010 statement beginning balance: \$5,357.23; Deposits: \$95.00;

Debits: \$586.64

20 June 2010 statement ending balance: \$4,865.59

Detachments Required to File IRS Form 990-N e-Postcard

The IRS Pension Protection Act of 2006 (PPA) requires all tax-exempt organizations to file a 990-N annually beginning in 2008. If they do not file for three (3) consecutive years, IRS will revoke their tax-exempt status. So all detachments must file the 990-N, e-Postcard after the fiscal year ends on 6/30/2010. They can file electronically on IRS website at <http://epostcard.form990.org/> and then just follow the instructions to complete the form 990-N. The 990-N is easy to file and basically just fill in the blanks. You will receive an e-mail confirmation from IRS. Send an email with the confirmation to Dept Adjutant George Gill at gogill@suddenlink.net and National Adjutant/Paymaster Meg Thoburn at mthoburn@mcleague.org. You can e-file the 990-N from any computer.

Make Annual Verification of Paid Life Members

Paymaster Gill sends a reminder to all detachments to verify their Paid Life Members (PLM) listed on the membership roster dated 6/30/10 from National. These are due at National before Dec. 31. If a detachment does not certify its PLM roster is true and accurate before the deadline, it will not receive its annual residual interest for its life members. Take the original copy of the roster and verify the PLM members. The Commandant and Paymaster must sign a statement on the original that they certify and annotate that the life member list is audited and is true and accurate, and there are no changes. This must also be dated. Make a copy after signing and then forward the original to Dept Paymaster George Gill,

P.O. Box 522, Ravenswood, WV 26164. He will send this to the National Adjutant/Paymaster. You must send this signed roster to Paymaster Gill with enough lead time for him to send it to National and arrive there by Dec. 31. Ref: National Bylaws Sections 645 and 646.

WV Pack Growl

MODD WV Pack Leader Mike McLain has scheduled a Pack Growl on Saturday, July 31 for 10 a.m. at the American Legion Post 104 at 814 Avery St. in Parkersburg, WV. There are several vacancies in the officers of the WV Pack and these will be filled during the Growl. In addition, those MCL members who are eligible to join the MODD as Pups or those Pups eligible to advance to DD status, are invited to attend. Bring your bones and be prepared to have some fun.

Department of West Virginia Receives National Meritorious Unit Commendation

During the Mideast Division Conference at Virginia Beach, VA, on June 26, 2010, the Department of West Virginia, Marine Corps League was presented the National Meritorious Unit Commendation by Mideast Division NVC James Tant. This award is for the period April 20, 2009 to April 20, 2010. All MCL members in the department during this period are authorized to wear the National Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.

A copy of the commendation is attached. The MCL Ribbon Chart Order of Precedence is listed in the National Bylaws in the Uniform Code section.

National Bylaws 2010 Proposed Changes

National headquarters has mailed copies of the proposed 2010 Bylaws changes to each Detachment Commandant. These bylaws will be voted on at National Convention in Greensboro, NC. Every detachment commandant is asked to read over these proposed bylaws and discuss them with your members during a meeting. As your Department Commandant I desire to vote the wishes of the department and your input and desires on these changes is encouraged. I would appreciate any info from your detachment as to what action to take on each proposed bylaws change. The department officers are having a staff meeting on Sat, July 31 in Parkersburg and these bylaws will be discussed about how to vote on each one. Pass on your input to me or one of the department officers.

Members in the League

Marines join the league for a variety of reasons. Sometimes we forget they are volunteers who want to stay connected to their Marine Corps heritage Throughout history Marines are famous for improvising, adapting, and overcoming any obstacle. Anyone who brings their personal agenda, unchecked egos, or false belief they are still on active duty should pause for a few minutes and take time to challenge themselves about why they desire to join the league. The ritual that each member takes is about Marines looking out for each other and bringing no harm to others. Some have caused rifts or internal conflict within their detachments. Have these members forgotten why they joined the league? Marines learn through their mistakes and leadership is developed over time. Some members are more experienced in the working organization of the league and are considered to have corporate knowledge. This knowledge needs to be spread among those new members because they need mentored so they can become the leaders of tomorrow. IRS considers the MCL to be a social organization to further the welfare of Marines and their dependents. A fallen Marine is never left on the battlefield and even those Marines in our communities who die should be honored. Any time, any place, anywhere a Marine falls, we need to honor their memory. Nothing else should ever be more important.

Maritime Corps League



Meritorious Unit Commendation
(National Level)
to

DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA

In appreciation and gratitude for meritorious services in the interests of the
United States of America, the United States Marine Corps and the
Marine Corps League, for the period April 20, 2009 to April 20, 2010 .

Forwarded this 26th day of May, 2010

James R. Sobley National Commandant
MSJTB National Adjutant-Supervisor

Authorization for the wear of the
National Meritorious Unit Commenda-
tion Ribbon by each member of the
entity to which this award was made
during the period indicated, is approved.

Uniform Code

These sections of the National Uniform Code are listed so members have proper guidance in wearing the MCL uniform including ribbons and medals, covers, label pins and medallions. Only 3 buttons are worn on the blazer sleeve, having 4 is not correct.

1. MEDALS AND RIBBONS

- A. Marine Corps League and Department of Defense medals and/or ribbons should NEVER be mixed on any uniform. The wearer has only the choice of wearing authorized medals and/or ribbons of either, but never both together and mixed.
- B. One, two or three large (standard) Marine Corps League medals or Department of Defense medals may be worn centered over the left breast pocket of the Marine Corps League Red Blazer Uniform. Medals must be mounted on a single ribbon bar.
- C. Miniature Marine Corps League medals OR miniature Department of Defense medals, wings and badges may be worn ONLY with the FORMAL DRESS Uniform, either on the Evening Dress Jacket or on the MCL red blazer when worn as the optional jacket for the FORMAL DRESS UNIFORM.

2. WEARING OF MINIATURE MEDALS

- A. Miniature medals may be worn on the FORMAL DRESS Uniform ONLY.
- B. Miniature medals worn on the Evening Dress Jacket should be worn centered on the left lapel, and below the tip of the lapel notch.
- C. The following applies only if wearing the red blazer as an tonal jacket with the FORMAL DRESS Uniform.
 - * Miniature medals may be worn on the left lapel of the Red Blazer with the medals placed evenly between the left lapel notch and the top edge of the breast pocket and one (1) inch out from the edge of inside of the left lapel. In those instances where regulation-size holding bar/bars cannot be accommodated on the lapel, medals may be extended beyond the edge of the lapel to the left breast of the Red Blazer.
 - * Additional holding bars on the Red Blazer shall be placed under the top row in such a manner that the medallions of the upper row are in line immediately above the medallions of the succeeding row, unless medal count is uneven.

3. MARINE CORPS LEAGUE COVERS

- A. All members of the Marine Corps League are authorized the Red cover. Members elected to National office, or appointed to National Staff/Committees, are authorized to wear Gold covers. The National Commandant will wear a White cover. Members elected to or appointed on the Department (State) level are authorized to wear the Red with Gold crown covers.
- B. The Past National Commandants are authorized to wear a Gold with White crown cover. The Past Chief Devil Dogs are authorized to wear a Gold with Black crown cover. Past National Division Vice Commandants, Past National Executive Directors, Past National Directors of Young Marines, Past Department Commandants, Past Pack Leaders, and Past Detachment Commandants, with the years displayed for holding that office, are the only members who are

authorized to wear their respective cover after their tour of duty is completed. All other members will revert back to the appropriate cover for their current elected or appointed office, removing their prior officer identification strips.

C. The only insignia authorized for wear on the Marine Corps League covers is the anodized solid gold color or polished brass Marine Corps emblem on the left side. The Devil Dog patch, if authorized, will be worn up front on the right side of the cover. The identification strips, i.e., Department or Detachment strip, or embroidering, will be centered on the right side. If the "LIFE" strip is worn, it will be to the rear of the right side. The "LIFE MEMBER" strip will be worn the same as the identification strips are worn, and should be worn above other strips. NO DIVISION PINS OR OTHER PINS/ORNAMENTS ARE AUTHORIZED ON MARINE CORPS LEAGUE COVERS.

4. LAPEL PINS

The following lapel pins may be worn only on the red blazer or the Evening Dress Jacket. The Past National Commandant Pin may be worn inboard with the National Marine of the Year outboard. National Marine of the Year may be worn inboard with a Past Department or Detachment Commandant Pin (only one past commandant pin). Kennel Devil Dog of the Year Pin may be worn outboard of the National Marine of the Year. The Chapel of Four Chaplains, MCL Membership, or Retired Marine lapel pins may also be worn. (Although there are several types of MCL Membership pins, i.e., Past Commandant, Life Member, Five-Year Membership, Ten-Year Membership, etc., only one MCL Membership pin should be worn.) Ordained Ministers or Chaplains may wear a symbol of their religion, of the size approved by DOD. **Whatever pins are approved for wear, only two pins may be worn at any time** -- wearer's choice. Only one (1) miniature ribbon of individual choice may be worn above the lapel pin on the red blazer or evening dress jacket, provided miniature medals are not worn on the evening dress.

5. MEDALLIONS

The medal and ribbon presented by the Chapel of Four Chaplains or the National, Division, Department or Detachment Marine of the Year Medallion may be worn with the CASUAL or FORMAL Uniform (male and female) in lieu of the Military Order of the Devil Dog collar at the option of the awardee. Only one of these devices, medallions or collar, may be worn at any time.

Veterans' Medallion Available for Order; New Option for Marking Veterans' Graves in Private Cemeteries

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki announced today that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is offering bronze medallions to attach to existing, privately purchased headstones or markers, signifying a deceased's status as a Veteran. "For Veterans not buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery, or those without a government grave marker, VA is pleased to offer this option that highlights their service and sacrifices for our country," said Secretary Shinseki.

The new item can be furnished instead of a traditional government headstone or marker for Veterans whose death occurred on or after Nov. 1, 1990, and whose grave in a private cemetery is marked with a privately purchased headstone. Under federal law, eligible Veterans buried in a private cemetery are entitled to either a government-furnished grave marker or the new medallion, but not both. Veterans buried in a national or state Veterans cemetery will receive a government headstone or marker of the standard design authorized at that cemetery. The medallion is available in three sizes: 5 inches, 3 inches and 1 ½ inches in width. Each bronze medallion features the image of a folded burial flag adorned with laurels and is inscribed with the word "Veteran" at the top and the branch of service at the bottom.

Next of kin will receive the medallion, along with a kit that will allow the family or the staff of a private cemetery to affix the medallion to a headstone, grave marker, mausoleum or columbarium niche cover. More information about VA-furnished headstones, markers and medallions can be found at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/hm/hmtype.asp>. VA is currently developing an application form for ordering the medallion. Until it is available, applicants may use the form for ordering government headstones and markers, VA Form 40-1330. Instructions on how to apply for a medallion are found on the VA Web site at www.cem.va.gov/hm_hm.asp.

Veterans with a discharge issued under conditions other than dishonorable, their spouses and eligible dependent children can be buried in a VA national cemetery. Other burial benefits available for all eligible Veterans, regardless of whether they are buried in a national cemetery or a private cemetery, include a burial flag, a Presidential Memorial Certificate and a government headstone or grave marker. The new medallions will be available only to Veterans buried in private cemeteries without a government headstone or marker. Families of eligible decedents may also order a memorial headstone or marker when remains are not available for interment. VA operates 131 national cemeteries in 39 states and Puerto Rico and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites. More than 3 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict -- from the Revolutionary War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan -- are buried in VA national cemeteries on more than 19,000 acres. Information on VA burial benefits can be obtained from national cemetery offices, from the VA Web site on the Internet at www.cem.va.gov or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 1-800-827-1000.

Korean War Vet Appreciation Letter:

The Invasion of Inchon, the Pusan Perimeter and the Chosin Reservoir are only a few of the fields of battle where Americans placed their lives on the line for democracy. Of nearly 390,000 Americans who served there, 36,000 gave their lives. The war was a military conflict between the Republic of South Korea, supported by the United Nations, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, backed by the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union. The situation escalated into open warfare when North Korean forces invaded South Korea across the border between the countries—the 38th parallel—on 25 JUN 50. An armistice was signed on 23 JUL 53, thus ending the first significant armed conflict of the Cold War; however, a formal peace agreement never has been signed.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the war, the Republic of Korea 60th Anniversary of the Korean War Commemoration Committee has various plans to thank, honor and remember Korean War Veterans and their achievements. One of the projects is to send letters of appreciation from the President of the Republic of Korea to as many living Korean War Veterans as possible to express tribute and profound gratitude for their service and sacrifice that laid the foundations of peace and freedom enjoyed today by the people of Korea. Korean War veterans who want to receive the letter should fill out and submit an application form for an appreciation letter from the Republic of Korea President. To obtain forms and information on how/where to submit:

- Complete the PDF form at <http://eng.koreanwar60.go.kr/apply.asp>
- By internet click 'SUBMIT' upon completion.
- By mail complete and print the Application Form and send to: US Branch ROK 60th AKW Commemoration Committee, 2450 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington D.C., 20008
- Direct all questions to: sweetewe@korea.kr

VA Copay Effective 1 Jan 2010

Outpatient Services -- The following copay amounts are limited to a single charge per visit regardless of

the number of health care providers seen in a single day. The copay amount is based on the highest level of service received. There is no copay requirement for preventive care services such as screenings and immunizations:

- Basic Care Services provided by a primary care clinician \$15 / visit
- Specialty Care Services provided by a clinical specialist such as surgeon, radiologist, audiologist, optometrist, cardiologist, and specialty tests such as magnetic resonance imagery (MRI), computerized axial tomography (CAT) scan, and nuclear medicine studies \$50 / visit.

Medications

- Veterans in Priority Group 1 do not pay for medications
- Veterans in Priority Groups 2-6, for each 30-day or less supply of medication for treatment of nonservice-connected condition \$8 (Veterans in Priority Groups 2 through 6 are limited to \$960 annual cap)
- Effective July 1, 2010 Veterans in Priority Groups 7-8, for each 30-day or less supply of \$9 medication for treatment of nonservice-connected condition (Veterans in Priority Groups 7-8 do not qualify for medication copay annual cap)

Inpatient Services -- Based on geographically-based means testing, lower-income veterans who live in high-cost areas may qualify for a reduction of 80% of inpatient copay charges. Charges applicable to all priority groups:

- Inpatient Copay for first 90 days of care during a 365-day period \$1,100
- Inpatient Copay for each additional 90 days of care during a 365-day period \$550
 - Per Diem Charge \$10/day

Long-Term Care -- Copays for Long-Term Care services start on the 22nd day of care during any 12-month period--there is no copay requirement for the first 21 days. Actual copay charges will vary from veteran to veteran depending upon financial information submitted on VA Form 10-10EC. Charges applicable to all priority groups:

- Nursing Home Care/Inpatient Respite Care/Geriatric Evaluation maximum of \$97/day
- Adult Day Health Care/Outpatient Geriatric Evaluation Outpatient Respite Care maximum of \$15/day
 - Domiciliary Care maximum of \$5/day

SBP DIC Offset

Survivors of military members have an opportunity for two forms of survivors' benefits. The most common is the purchased benefit called the Survivor Benefit Program (SBP) where the military member pays premiums from retired pay. Currently serving members are also covered by SBP automatically. The other is a program ran by Veteran Affairs (VA) called Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC). DIC is paid to survivors whose spouse died of Service-connected causes. If a survivor qualifies for DIC and is covered by SBP, the DIC amount is subtracted from the SBP amount. This is known as the SBP-DIC Offset. Last August, 3 survivors fought in the courts against the offset for their specific situation and won. They realized the law was worded differently for survivors who remarried after age 57. In this specific case, the law does not stipulate an offset. As a result, all survivors remarried after age 57 now receive full SBP and DIC payments.

The DOD is in the process of fixing the offset issue for survivors in this situation. They have identified 737 survivors remarried after age 57. All of these survivors are now receiving their full monthly SBP and DIC payments. However, the lawsuit also has a retroactive period that requires survivors who qualify to receive back pay. The retroactive period is from the date of remarriage but no earlier than 1 JAN 04. To date, 367 have received their back pay. The remaining survivors will get their back pay over the next few months as DOD calculates the amounts due for each individual. For all other SBP/DIC

eligible's, there is now a new tool for MOAA and the Military Coalition to use in fighting for the elimination of the SBP-DIC offset. In 2008, Congress symbolically admitted the offset was wrong by passing legislation that authorized a supplemental pay to help restore some of the pay denied by the offset. This program is known as Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA). SSIA is administered by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) as is SBP. Here is the payment schedule for the additional monthly payment under SSIA:

October 2008 - \$50; October 2009 - \$60; October 2010 - \$70; October 2011 - \$80; October 2012 - \$90; October 2013 - \$100; October 2014 - \$150; October 2015 - \$200; October 2016 - \$275; October 2017 - \$310.

The SSIA was the first foot in the door for the repeal of the offset. Now the Sharp case is another foot in the door. We have support on the Hill for the repeal of the offset but the impediment has been the last minute consensus on how to pay for the offset elimination. The fight will go on. For more on the Sharp case, refer to www.dfas.mil/rapay/annuitantstoreceivefullsbpanddicbenefits.html . General information on SBP can be found in the DFAS booklet at www.dfas.mil/rapay/annuities/sbp/SBPGuideBook.pdf .

Calendar of Events

2010 MCL National Convention Aug 6 -14, Koury Convention Center, Greensboro, NC, 1-800-242-6556. Rooms \$100.00 plus 12 3/4% tax. Reservations can be made now.

Department Officer Staff meeting July 31, 12:00 at the American Legion Post 104, 814 Avery St in Parkersburg, WV.

Department Quarterly meeting September 18, 10 a.m. at the VFW in Clarksburg. WV Pack Growl will immediately follow the meeting.

2011 Mid East Division Conference will be held in Delaware. Location and date TBA

2011 Department Convention will be hosted by Jones, Wolin & O'Brien Detachment 771 in Wheeling

2011 MCL National Convention Jul 31-August 6 at Doubletree Riverside Hotel, Boise, Idaho. 1-800-222-TREE or 1-208-343-1871. Room rates are \$86.00 plus 13% tax. Hosted by Treasure Valley MCL Detachment 878, Boise, Idaho.

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